

43 Cherry Lane  
Amherst, Ma. 01002

April 16, 1999

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FDA  
5600 Fisheries Lane, HF-1  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Commissioner Henney,

Many Americans today are concerned with their diet. We are told that cutting back on fats helps prevent some cancers and heart disease. We follow other lifestyle recommendations to protect ourselves and our families. But we need help from the federal government. We need the FDA to require proper labeling of food so we can make informed choices.

It is my belief that the Food and Drug Administration's mission includes protecting public health. Food that has been genetically engineered presents unknown risks to the environment and to human health and as such should be carefully evaluated. To allow its mass dissemination into the market seems very premature. Moreover, if the consumer is not prepared to choose genetically engineered food, they have the right to refuse to buy it. That necessitates the right to know. How can it be anything but dishonest to exclude the mandatory labeling that allows informed choice? Food labeling for nutrients, fat content, potential allergenic ingredients are clear precedent of the consumers right to know. How else can one make healthy choices? For the FDA not to require labels on transgenic food is a clear example of industry influencing the regulatory agency to the detriment of the public. It is undemocratic, unethical and contrary to the purpose of the FDA.

It has been suggested that consumers who wish to avoid purchasing genetically engineered food buy organic. I do, but that is not the answer. Many folks cannot afford or don't have access to organic choices. Our general food supply should be free of unnecessary health risks and your agency is entrusted with the mandate of seeing that it is.

Sincerely yours,

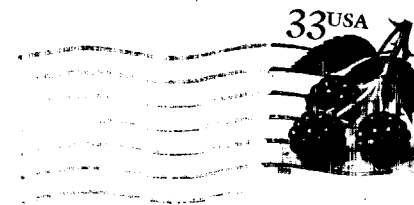
*Bernadette Jones*

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Dr. Jane E. Herney, Commissioner  
Food and Drug Administration  
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